

Total Cases: 68
Total Deaths: 1
Total Currently in Quarantine: 8

Today's update was presented by Shawn Harris, Selectman, Andrew Scheele, Board of Health Director, and Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator.

Governor Baker has extended the stay-at-home order until May 18th. It is anticipated that the task force charged with creating the "re-opening" guidelines will advise "baby steps" of relaxing rules. In the meantime, please continue to follow the current guidelines: wash your hands often, wear a mask in buildings and around the public, practice social distance.

Parking spaces at the lighthouse will be reduced to discourage overcrowding. If you arrive somewhere and see a lot of people, find somewhere else to walk, etc.

Director Scheele provided an extensive explanation of the process the town is following to ensure that Scituate adheres to state directives for public safety. He noted that Board of Health has issued a face mask advisory, consistent with the recommendations from the State Department of Health. This is not make face masks mandatory, like some towns have elected to do. Director Scheele pointed out that the best minds in infectious disease and public safety management are advising state officials. It is his opinion that relying on their advice is the best course for the town.

Regarding restaurant workers, Director Scheele stated that restaurants are already under very strict safety protocols to protect food safety, that there is no evidence that the virus is transmitted through food, and that face masks in the professional kitchen setting create additional safety concerns.

The very best thing residents can do to reduce the chances of contracting the virus is to WASH YOUR HANDS! Reducing contact with others and keeping your hands away from your face are also hugely important.

Director Scheele publicly thanked his small but mighty Health Department staff. Not only are they managing the COVID19 emergency, but they continue to process their normal workload. TA Boudreau also thanked the School Department for loaning school nurses to the team during this emergency.

Marinas have been approved to open on schedule. Scituate will open on May 15th and the Harbormaster will be closely following compliance to the public safety rules. The full list will be publicized but include only family members on boat, no rafting or tie-ups, and don't gather on docks.

Golf Courses are being reviewed by the State and there's a good chance the restrictions will be lifted May 18th. Widow's Walk management is preparing for online reservations and payments as well as other likely adjustments to protect golfers and the staff.

The town website COVID19 page is constantly updated with information as it becomes available.

The June 13th Town Elections will be held. However, the Town Clerk is **STRONGLY URGING** residents to send in absentee/early voting ballot requests and to vote by mail. You can download forms from the town website or pick up forms outside town hall. In person voting will be held from 9am to 2pm on June 13th, but the Town Clerk is hoping the majority of people will vote by mail.

Senior hours at the transfer station will continue during the emergency on Mondays from 8-10am.

Water hook-ups will begin again this Monday, May 4th. Please complete the request form found on the town website:
https://www.scituatema.gov/sites/scituatema/files/uploads/permission_for_seasonal_turn_on_4.30.20_v6_editable.pdf and return to get on the list.

Welcome to new School Superintendent William Burkhead and Widow's Walk Golf Course Manager Ian Kelly.

Reminder: DO NOT FLUSH "WASHABLE" WIPES!!! They wreck the pumps at the sewage treatment plant.

Go Green! has been cited by the Scituate Fire Department for violations on their site. They have been bringing in heavy equipment in order to clean-up the site, as required. They have been asked to give notice to the town if they intend to close again to do this work.

The Memorial Day parade is unlikely to be held, due to social distancing mandates likely to continue. However, the town is working with veterans to find a respectful way to mark the day within the guidelines. Stay tuned.

South Shore Peer Recovery has organized Zoom meetings for those in the recovery community as well as set up a request form for anyone who needs assistance with anything during this crisis.

Coastal Resource Officer Boyd will be hosting a Zoom visioning meeting for Coastal Planning tonight at 7pm. Login information on the town's website.

Finally, many businesses have converted to online shopping and restaurants have robust curbside and delivery systems in place now. Please continue to support our local businesses.